

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 06491 021540Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 HEW-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05

IO-10 SSO-00 /089 W

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R 021443Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4687

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6491

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: STUDENTS ROUNDED UP FOR APPARENTLY FAILING TO BEHAVE/

OBSERVE DEADLINE FOR RETURN TO CLASSES

REF: ADDIS 6240

1. TODAY, JUNE 2, IS DEADLINE FOR STUDENTS TO RESUME CLASSES AND OBSERVE RULES (SEE REFTEL). FIRST APPEARANCES THIS MORNING INDICATED THAT MOST STUDENTS HAD RETURNED TO CLASSES. HOWEVER, ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS APPEARED TO HAVE ARMED SOLDIERS AND/OR POLICE INSIDE COMPOUNDS. ADDITIONALLY, MOUNTED MACHINE GUNS AND TRUCKS WITH RIOT POLICE STATIONED AT SEVERAL KEY POINTS IN ADDIS.

2. AT 1415 LOCAL, OFFICIAL AMERICAN WAS EYE-WITNESS AS FIVE TRUCKS OF RIOT POLICE CONDUCTED STREET SWEEP NEAR CITY HALL, REPORTEDLY DETAINING TRUANT STUDENTS. FSL, ABOUT SAME TIME, REPORTED LARGE
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 06491 021540Z

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ARRESTED AT MENELIK II SCHOOL. ARRESTS CONTINUING AT THIS WRITING TO ULULATIONS OF MOTHERS. HUNDREDS OF STU-

DENTS BEING TAKEN TO FIRST DIVISION (IBG). ONE STUDENT TOLD EMBOFF:
"THIS IS OUR MI LAI."

3. AS OF THIS WRITING, 1615 LOCAL, SQUAD OF ARMED RIOT POLICE ALSO STATIONED IN FRONT OF TEFARI MAKONNEN SCHOOL WITH SQUAD OF SOLDIERS APPROACHING IT FROM REAR. THERE ARE ALSO VERBAL ALTERCATIONS AT MENELIK II SCHOOL WITH JEEP MOUNTED 30-CALIBER MG POISED AT SCHOOL GATE, WITH ARGUMENT ENSUING BETWEEN POLICE AND UNKNOWNNS.

4. WE HAVE REPORT THAT DESSIE STUDENTS, ON SEEING SOLDIERS INSIDE SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPOUND THIS MORNING, TURNED AROUND AND WENT HOME. THERE ARE, THUS, NO SECONDARY STUDENTS IN CLASSES IN DESSIE.

5. FSL/POL EMPLOYEE VISITED PRISON CAMP AT SENDAFE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 1, WHICH IS REPORTEDLY WHERE ARRESTED STUDENTS HAVE BEEN DETAINED. SAW SEVERAL STUDENT TYPES, UNDER CLOSE GUARD, ENGAGED IN MANUAL LABOR IN PRISON COMPOUND. LOCAL SOURCES REPORTED THAT 450 STUDENTS DETAINED IN SENDAFE PRISON CAMP. MOST, HOWEVER, WILL BE RELEASED SHORTLY.

6. COMMENT: LARGE AND VISIBLE MILITARY/POLICE PRESENCE THIS MORNING INDICATED "DIRG" WAS AWARE OF POSSIBILITY OF TROUBLE AND SHOW OF FORCE MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO COW STUDENTS. "DIRG" SHOW OF FORCE, HOWEVER, ENTAILS RISK, IN THAT ANY STUDENTS ARRESTED OR (ESPECIALLY) KILLED BY MILITARY WILL ALMOST INEVITABLY BECOME "CAUSE CELEBRE" AND INCITE FURTHER STUDENT UNREST. GIVEN STUDENT PERCEPTION OF THE "DIRG," CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO SEEMS LIKELY TO CONTINUE.
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